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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of processing a sequence of audio samples, each of said samples being stored within a respective packet, said method comprising:

retrieving a first packet from an input buffer, said first packet having an associated length;

determining pitch associated with audio information contained within said first packet;

determining whether a second packet of said audio samples has arrived at said input buffer, said second packet having an expected arrival time and an associated length; and

in response to a determination that the second packet arrives after the expected arrival time, adjusting said length of said first packet using at least one pitch period associated with said pitch; and, responsive to a determination that said second packet arrives after the expected arrival time

adjusting the length of the second packet according to the adjusted length of the first packet and an arrival time of a third packet received after the second packet.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said adjusting comprises:

processing at least two adjacent pitch periods to produce a new pitch period.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said new pitch period replaces said at least two adjacent pitch periods.

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4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said new pitch period is inserted between two of said at least two adjacent pitch periods.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising: ~~determining a scheduled play out time of the audio information within the length of the second packet.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising: ~~determining an estimated time of arrival (ETA) of a sequentially following the third packet.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein a target play time comprises the ETA and a latency period of ~~said sequentially following the third packet.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the play out time of audio information within ~~length of~~ the second packet is reduced in response to an early ~~a timely~~ arrival of a sequentially following ~~the third~~ packet at said input buffer.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the play out time of audio information within ~~length of~~ the second packet is not reduced by a factor greater than two.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the play out time of audio information within ~~said length of the~~ second packet is reduced by deleting at least one pitch period of a plurality of pitch periods contained within the said audio information of the second packet.

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11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the ~~target play time of audio information within length of~~ the second packet is expanded if ~~a next~~ ~~the third~~ packet arrives during ~~a the~~ latency period associated with the ~~next~~ ~~third~~ packet.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~a play time of audio information within said the length of the~~ second packet is adjusted to compensate for ~~adjustments of play time of the retrieved~~ ~~the length of the first~~ packet.

13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
a first VoIP gateway for retrieving a first packet from an input buffer, said first packet having an associated length;

 said first VoIP gateway determining pitch associated with audio information contained within said first packet;

 said first VoIP gateway determining whether a second packet of said audio information has arrived at said input buffer, said second packet having an expected arrival time and an associated length, and

said first VoIP gateway adjusting said length of said first packet using at least one pitch period associated with said pitch, responsive to a determination that said second packet arrives after the expected arrival time;

said first VoIP gateway adjusting the length of the second packet according to the adjusted length of the first packet and an arrival time of a third packet received after the second packet.

14. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said adjusting comprises:

 processing at least two adjacent pitch periods to produce a new pitch period.

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15. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said new pitch period replaces said at least two adjacent pitch periods.

16. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said new pitch period is inserted between two of said at least two adjacent pitch periods.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of claim 13, wherein said first VoIP gateway determines ~~a scheduled play out time of the audio information within the length of the second packet~~.

18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said first VoIP gateway determines an estimated time of arrival (ETA) of ~~a sequentially following the third packet~~.

19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein a target play time comprises the ETA and a latency period of ~~said sequentially following the third packet~~.

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the ~~scheduled play out time of audio information within length of the second packet is reduced in response to an early a timely arrival of a sequentially following the third packet at said input buffer~~.

21. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the ~~scheduled play out time of audio information within length of the second packet is not reduced by a factor greater than two~~.

22. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the ~~scheduled play out time of audio information within said length of the second~~

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packet is reduced by deleting at least one pitch period of a plurality of pitch periods contained within ~~the said~~ audio information of the second packet.

23. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the ~~target play time of audio information within length of~~ the second packet is expanded if ~~a next~~ the third packet arrives during the latency period of ~~said sequentially following~~ the third packet.

24. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the ~~target play time of audio information within said length of the second packet is expanded by copying~~ pitch periods contained within ~~said~~ audio information of said second packet.

25. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for expanding and reducing audio information within packets, comprising:

a processor; and

a storage device coupled to said processor for controlling said processor, said processor comprising instructions operative to:

retrieve a first packet from an input buffer, said first packet having an associated length;

determine pitch associated with audio information contained within said first packet;

determine whether a second packet of said audio information has arrived at said input buffer, said second packet having an expected arrival time and an associated length; and

in response to a determination that the second packet arrives after the expected arrival time, adjust said length of said first packet using at least one pitch period associated with said pitch; and, responsive to a determination that said second packet arrives after the expected arrival time

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adjust the length of the second packet according to the adjusted length of the first packet and an arrival time of a third packet received after the second packet.

26. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of instructions including instructions which, when executed by a processor, ensures the processor to perform a method comprising:

retrieving a first packet from an input buffer, said first packet having an associated length;

determining pitch associated with audio information contained within said first packet;

determining whether a second packet of said audio information has arrived at said input buffer, said second packet having an expected arrival time and an associated length; and

in response to a determination that the second packet arrives after the expected arrival time, adjusting said length of said first packet using at least one pitch period associated with said pitch; and, responsive to a determination that said second packet arrives after the expected arrival time

adjusting the length of the second packet according to the adjusted length of the first packet and an arrival time of a third packet received after the second packet.

27. (Currently Amended) A method of processing a sequence of audio samples, each of said samples being stored within a respective packet, said method comprising:

retrieving a first packet form an input buffer;

determining a pitch within said audio samples for said retrieved packet;
and

determining whether a second packet of said audio samples has arrived at said input buffer, said second packet having an expected arrival time;

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in response to a determination that the second packet arrives after the expected arrival time, adjusting a play time for said retrieved packet using at least one pitch period associated with said pitch based on a time of arrival of a sequentially following an actual arrival time of the second packet; and

adjusting a play time for said second packet based on the adjusted play time of the first packet and an actual arrival time of a third packet.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27, further comprising: determining an estimated time of arrival (ETA) for the ~~said sequentially following second~~ packet.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein said play time is a target play time.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29, wherein said target play time includes the ETA of ~~said sequentially following the second~~ packet and a latency period.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30 further comprising: expanding the play time of said retrieved packet when ~~said sequentially following the second~~ packet arrives during the latency period.

32. (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein the play time of the retrieved packet is expanded by copying pitch periods contained within said retrieved packet.

33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 29 further comprising: reducing the play time of ~~said sequentially following the second~~ packet when ~~a subsequent sequentially following the third~~ packet arrives before its an ETA of the third packet.

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34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 33, wherein the play time of the sequentially following second packet is reduced by removing a pitch period within said sequentially following the second packet.

35. (Original) The method of claim 34, wherein the step of reducing is implemented to compensate for the step of expanding.